V. M. MOLOTOV

SPEECH
at an
ELECTION MEETING
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MOLOTOV
ELECTORAL DISTRICT
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CITY OF MOSCOW

MARCH 10, 1950

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Comrades!

Allow me to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the trust in me that you have shown by nominating me your candidate for Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. (*Applause.*)

The honour bestowed upon me I attribute first and foremost to the trust that inspires your attitude to our great Communist Party and to the Communists, whose devotion to the Party is boundless. (*Applause.*)

I am ready, in the future as in the past, honestly and consistently, to carry out the will of the great Party of Lenin and Stalin, to devote my whole strength to my Motherland, in the cause of its prosperity, in the cause of the happiness of the Soviet people. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Comrades!

The present election campaign provides us with an opportunity of looking back on what has been done in the Soviet Union since the end of the Second World War.

Comrade Stalin, speaking four years ago of the first postwar five-year plan, underlined two basic problems. He pointed first of all to the task of restoring the damaged areas in our country, of restoring industry and agriculture to their prewar level and subsequently surpassing that level to a more or less considerable

extent. He also underlined the significance of another important task, that of raising the standard of living of the working people of the Soviet Union, resolutely steering toward the abolition of the rationing system, a maximum expansion of the production of general consumers' goods and a successive lowering of all commodity prices. These tasks were laid as the basis of the first postwar five-year plan.

Now you can see how these tasks have been fulfilled.

The rehabilitation of the U.S.S.R. areas ravaged by the occupants has an immense significance for us. Suffice it to say that one-third of the total of our prewar industrial output had been produced in the territory occupied by the enemy, and that the acreage under crop in that territory had made up nearly a half of the sown acreage in our country. The work for the restoration of those areas which is now in progress has already shown appreciable results.

As regards the national economy as a whole, we have not only reached the prewar level, we have even surpassed it, in all its main branches.

In agriculture, the prewar level of gross production was exceeded last year. As early as 1949, the gross harvest of cereals, cotton, flax, sunflower seeds and potatoes and the commonly owned livestock—large-horned cattle, sheep and hogs—on the kolkhozes exceeded the level of the best prewar year. The cereal problem is now solved. We are now supplied with grain, including necessary reserves. The fulfilment of the three-year plan for the development of stockbreeding adopted last year will lead to such an increase in the production of meat, butter, eggs, milk and other livestock products that we shall be in a position in 1951 to increase supplies to the population by at least fifty per cent in comparison with 1948.

The state in its turn is taking serious steps to increase its help to agriculture. Thus in 1949 alone, agricul-

ture received three to four times as many tractors, motor vehicles and agricultural machines as in prewar 1940.

The most important factor, however, is that our kolkhozes, which now number two hundred and fifty-four thousand, have grown considerably stronger, that there are now many model kolkhozes in which labour is highly mechanized and productive, and that the number of the many thousands of foremost men and women on the kolkhozes who have been awarded decorations or the title of Hero of Socialist Labour is steadily increasing.

Already in 1948, our industry not only attained but even surpassed the prewar level. In 1949, the prewar level was exceeded by forty-one per cent, which approximates the forty-eight per cent envisaged for the last year of the five-year plan. In the fourth quarter of last year our industry even surpassed the level fixed for the fifth year of the five-year plan, that is to say, for the current year. Whereas before the revolution, in 1913, the whole of Russia's industry had an output valued at sixteen billion rubles, in the last couple of years the annual *increase* alone in industrial production reached thirty-two to thirty-four billion rubles. In other words, it was twice as much as the gross production of the *whole* of our industry in prerevolutionary times.

In the first four years since the war, five thousand two hundred state industrial enterprises, not counting small ones, were built or restored and put into operation. About a million and a half factory workers, engineers, technicians and office employees are now working in those enterprises. The volume of capital construction in our industry in, for example, the past year was almost twice as great as in the best prewar year. Our building operations increase from year to year. This means that the further and still more powerful development of Soviet industry is assured.

The main thing is that the social movement for the further upsurgence of industry and for the improvement in the quality of industrial production now embraces the majority of the workers, foremen, technicians and engineers, that the number of outstanding innovators in production in our establishments is growing, that the friendly relations between science and production are being strengthened owing to the fact that our Soviet scientists are working in conjunction with our foremost workers and engineers, and that this social movement is continually spreading in industry and transport, and also in agriculture.

Thus, in all the principal branches of the national economy, our country is scoring one success after another, fulfilling and over-fulfilling Comrade Stalin's instructions and the tasks of the first postwar five-year plan. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Nor has the second task pointed out by Comrade Stalin in the last election campaign been less successfully carried out.

In these four years we have achieved much in the way of raising the standard of living of the working people in the towns and in the countryside. At the same time that we abolished the rationing system we began to implement the policy of lowering prices of general consumers' goods. The cutting of commodity prices in 1947 and 1949 has allowed the population to economize a total of one hundred and fifty-seven billion rubles on its expenditures, calculated on the basis of one year. Consumption by the population of the most important commodities exceeded the prewar level as early as last year.

On March 1st, as a result of the increase in the productivity of labour and the lowering of production costs, by decision of the Party and the Government, a third lowering of prices of an enormous quantity of goods

most necessary to the population was carried out. The decrease in the price of bread, meat and butter was as much as twenty-five to thirty per cent, of woven goods and footwear approximately fifteen to twenty per cent, and of some other goods forty to fifty per cent. This last lowering of prices, together with the reduction in prices on the kolkhoz markets and in cooperative stores which under these conditions is inevitable, will mean a gain to the population of not less than one hundred and ten billion rubles a year. This follows from the fact that in our country prices are reduced though the wage level reached and the amounts of pensions and stipends remain as they are and the prices paid by the state for agricultural produce also suffer no change.

It is now known from data already published that by 1949 the incomes of factory and office workers had increased twenty-four per cent in comparison with 1940. During that same period, the incomes of peasants increased more than thirty per cent. In 1949, the national income of the U.S.S.R. as a whole was thirty-six per cent higher than in 1940. After the new reduction in prices of general consumers' goods carried out on March 1, there will be a further considerable increase in the real wages of factory and office workers and also a further considerable decrease in the sums peasants have to pay on purchasing industrial commodities. As prices are lowered the purchasing power of the ruble will again appreciably rise and the rate of exchange of the ruble in comparison with the dollar, pound and other foreign currencies will improve. And this at a time when, as in the United States, for example, and in other capitalist countries, due to commodity price increases, the wages of the workers are decreasing from year to year, when the incomes of American farmers are dropping, as they did last year alone by seventeen per

cent and when the currencies of these countries are falling lower and lower.

After this one will understand why the American and European bourgeois press passed over in silence the communiqué published in our press on the excellent results of the fulfilment of the national-economic plan of the U.S.S.R. in 1949. One will also understand why this press flounders so in its reports on the new lowering of commodity prices in our country and has recourse to all sorts of unsavoury methods in order to distort the real significance of that measure, which is so important for the working people. The bourgeois and the cringing pseudo-socialist press is obviously afraid to publish facts which so convincingly bear witness to the mighty development going on in the Soviet Union. (*Applause.*)

The national economy of our country, and above all its leading force, socialist industry, is growing from one year to another, in accordance with the law of uninterrupted rise of socialist economy which has become established in the Soviet state. Simultaneously, the welfare of the working people is steadily improving, and that is precisely what radically distinguishes the Soviet state from all countries in the capitalist camp. This unswerving rise in the working people's standard of living must also be referred to the basic laws of economic development in the Soviet socialist state.

Does that mean that we can rest content with the success we have achieved? No. The Party, Comrade Stalin, teaches us quite the contrary. The Party demands of each and every one of us constant and courageous critical verification of his own work. Comrade Stalin teaches that without self-criticism there is no going forward, that self-criticism is as necessary to us as the air we breathe. In his famous letter to Maxim Gorky Comrade Stalin wrote:

"We cannot get along without self-criticism. Nohow, Alexei Maximovich. Without it, stagnation, the rotting of the apparatus, increasing bureaucracy and the undermining of the creative initiative of the working class are inevitable."

Those words were uttered twenty years ago; they apply in their entirety to our present day as well.

We really go forward only when we courageously bring to light the shortcomings and mistakes in our work like Bolsheviks, when, relying on the mighty upward swing of our country, we are ever more exacting towards ourselves, when we exhibit the necessary ability to unite the progressive forces among Soviet people, and among our people in its entirety, and direct them towards the fulfilling of further new tasks brought forward by the Party in accordance with the requirements of the home and international situation. This determines the basic tasks of all our organizations—Party and non-Party organizations, Soviets of Working People's Deputies, trade unions and the Komsomol.

We now see that the economic rehabilitation of our country started after the end of the war is, in the main lines, completed, and that we have already risen to a higher economic level than before the war. Now we have vast opportunities of really setting to work to solve such serious problems as the housing question. The construction of new dwellings, side by side with the building of new schools and hospitals, occupies a very prominent place in the plan that is being drawn up for the further reconstruction of our capital, Moscow. (*Applause.*)

We have a powerful industry, in a position to satisfy the present commodity requirements of the population. At the same time our industry is producing all kinds of machines, delicate instruments and technical novelties of every description. We have passed on to the

task of introducing new techniques in an organized way into all branches of the national economy, especially such work as coal mining, loading and unloading, building, lumbering and so on, according to a broadly conceived state plan. If we properly organize this matter and intensify our struggle against the shortcomings to be found here, we shall greatly lighten the labour of our workers, considerably raise the productivity of labour in a number of backward industries and create the requisite conditions for further lowering the cost of production of commodities and improving their quality.

Today in all branches of work, responsible posts and managerial positions belong to Communists and other Soviet people with extensive practical experience and thorough preparation. The further improvement of our economic personnel was helped, even before the war, by the shattering of the trotskyites, bukharinites and other saboteurs, planted in our enterprises and institutions by all manner of espionage agencies of the imperialist states. This is a fact we must never forget. The total number of specialists having completed training in higher educational establishments and technical high schools employed in our national economy is at present approximately seventy per cent greater than in prewar 1940. Each year the staffs of qualified specialists in industry, transport and agriculture receive more powerful fresh reinforcements than the year before. Consequently we now have possibilities of improving our economic and technical management that we did not possess before the war.

During the last election campaign Comrade Stalin specially emphasized the need for raising our standards in scientific work still higher. He then set our scientists the task "in the very near future not only to overtake but even outstrip the achievements of science beyond the borders of our country." Facts show that we are pro-

gressing successfully in that direction. Suffice it to recall the increasing number of Stalin Prize winners.

It is now obvious to all how shortsighted the German and other fascists were when they ventured to attack the U.S.S.R. in the hope of smashing the Soviet people and putting an end to the very existence of the Soviet state. They had not the sense to understand in time that no fascists are strong enough to do so and that an attack by the fascists on the Soviet Union was bound to end in a fiasco. The Soviet people bore the brunt of the fighting in the Second World War, but in spite of all it had to suffer it emerged from the war still stronger and still mightier, still more confident in its own strength. (*Applause.*)

Even in the countries that were our allies during the Second World War there were no few statesmen who based their calculations on the assumption that, as a result of enemy occupation and the onerous burdens which it fell to the lot of our people to bear, the Soviet state would be enfeebled and the imperialists would then be able to dictate their will to the Soviet Union. Those men also were too shortsighted. They had not the sense to understand what real strength consisted in and where the inexhaustible source of the might of so vigorous a socialist state as the U.S.S.R. was to be found. They did not understand the enormous significance of the fact that the U.S.S.R. is buttressed on new social factors hitherto unknown, but actually capable of working miracles: factors such as the indestructible moral and political unity of socialist society, the brotherly friendship between the peoples of the Soviet state and the daily increasing Soviet patriotism in which the Soviet people has been brought up under the leadership of the Communist Party. (*Stormy applause.*)

We must not be surprised to see that reactionaries of all shades do not understand what the Soviet Union

really is, for they keep looking backward instead of forward, for they, like a certain animal, cannot lift up their heads aloft. (*Laughter. Applause.*)

We, our people, will be correctly understood and the historic part played by the U.S.S.R. as the decisive progressive force of our age will be correctly assessed only when it is remembered that the Soviet Union was founded by one of the greatest of all revolutionaries, Lenin, and that it is led onward by a leader of genius, our Stalin. (*Stormy prolonged applause. All rise.*)

* * *

The victory over German fascism and Japanese imperialism and the Soviet Union's decisive role in the shattering of these aggressive forces brought about important changes in the international situation.

Look to the west of the frontiers of the U.S.S.R.

There, popular-democratic states, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania, took shape and gained strength. They sprang up as the result of the military defeat of fascism in Europe, and thanks to the help which the Soviet Army afforded the peoples of those countries in their struggle for national and social liberation. (*Applause.*) Having conquered their freedom, the peoples in these countries swept aside the exploiting classes, the capitalists and landlords, ejected them from their dominant positions and set up a system of popular democracy based on an alliance of the workers and peasants headed by the working class, under the leadership of the Communist and Workers' Parties.

Before the Second World War, the chief role in the governments of these countries was often played by agents of such powers as England, France and the United States of America, or by agents of the fascist states,

Germany and Italy, and not infrequently by both the former and the latter together. Now the situation has changed radically. It is naturally not so easy to do away with imperialist agencies in small countries. The Rajk trial in Hungary and the Traicho Kostov trial in Bulgaria, as well as many other facts show that the imperialists manage to slip their agents and spies even into the leading centres of the Communist Parties, not to mention the bourgeois parties. When the People's Democracies finally set about the necessary and lawful task of liquidating those spy-nests, which offer asylum to saboteurs, wreckers and terrorists of every description, the American and European ruling circles try to interfere in the internal affairs of those countries, and, under the pretext of "defending the rights of man," shower them with threats, accusations and repressions of every description, going so far as to break off diplomatic relations with them, as recently in the case of Bulgaria. It is not difficult, however, to understand how futile such acts of aggression are.

During the four years which have elapsed since the war the People's Democracies finally determined the future course of their development. They consolidated as states performing the functions of a dictatorship of the proletariat. They set out on the path of Socialism, showing clearly that there is no other way to freedom and the raising of the standard of living for the peoples of Europe but a resolute transition to Socialism. The Soviet Union is closely linked by bonds of friendship and mutual assistance to the peoples in the countries of popular democracy.

The exposure of the black treachery of the Tito clique in Yugoslavia was of great positive significance. Now that criminal fascist band can no longer hide under the mask of Communism in its own country, nor can it any longer disintegrate the ranks of honest

democrats and socialists in other lands. The peoples of Yugoslavia will, of course, draw their own conclusions from the situation that has arisen.

Now about Germany.

We have not succeeded in finding a common language on this question with our allies in the Second World War. The separate actions taken by the United States of America, Great Britain and France have led to the splitting of the German state, and subsequently to the parcelling out of Western Germany, the wrenching away from it of the Saar and the separation of the industrial Ruhr. Such a policy cannot but end in a scandalous failure.

The creation of the German Democratic Republic with its capital in Berlin opens a new page not only in the history of Germany, but even in the history of Europe. Comrade Stalin spoke of this with great power of conviction, pointing out that "the existence of a peace-loving democratic Germany together with the existence of the peace-loving Soviet Union precludes the possibility of new wars in Europe, puts an end to bloodshed in Europe and makes impossible the enslavement of European countries by the world imperialists." The sooner the German people understands the real historic significance of the formation of the German Democratic Republic, the sooner will it attain its national unity and the more solidly will the cause of lasting peace in Europe be guaranteed. (*Applause.*)

Now cast a glance towards the East and compare the present situation there with what it was only a few years ago.

Only one democratic state, the Mongolian People's Republic, existed in Asia before the Second World War. Now the Korean People's Republic has been formed and is striving towards full national unification, which it will, no doubt, attain. The great significance

of the constitution of the democratic republic of Viet-Nam is obvious.

Not until very recently did it become apparent that the most important result of the victory of the allied countries over German fascism and Japanese imperialism was the triumph of the national-liberation movement in China. (*Prolonged applause.*) It took more than two decades for the revolutionary movement of the Chinese people, headed by the Communist Party, to achieve its great victory. Now, under the guidance of its outstanding leader, Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people has formed its own people's republic. (*Prolonged applause.*)

After the October Revolution in our country, the victory of the popular liberation movement in China is a further most powerful blow to the whole system of world imperialism and to all the plans of imperialist aggression in our time. Close friendly relations have, naturally, been set up between the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic. The treaty of fraternal alliance concluded in February between the U.S.S.R. and the Chinese People's Republic transformed Soviet-Chinese friendship into a great and mighty force for the consolidation of peace throughout the world, a force the like of which does not exist and never before did exist in the history of the human race. (*Stormy applause.*)

To all that I have already said I must add that since the Second World War important changes have taken place in the capitalist countries too. In quite a number of those countries a Communist or Workers' Party is either already a decisive factor in the political development of the people or is working successfully in that direction, rearranging its organizations in accordance with the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism.

For many years following the victory of the October Revolution, the Soviet Union was the only socialist

state, a state surrounded by enemy capitalist countries. The imperialists contrived many and various plans to choke the U.S.S.R. As recently as last year, that reactionary diehard, Churchill, giving vent to his spleen in the British parliament, angrily rebuked history for not having allowed the plan "to nip Bolshevism in the bud" to materialize. The Soviet Union not only withstood ordeals of all kinds but even waxed stronger in the fight.

During the Second World War, the U.S.S.R. inflicted crushing defeat upon the most impatient of its enemies. Victorious in that war and put in possession of the opportunity to offer effective assistance to the liberation movements of other peoples, the Soviet Union at last emerged from its state of international isolation. Now it not only has emerged from its international isolation, but has become the centre of the mighty international democratic camp which unites all the popular-democratic states. In the capitalist countries themselves we now have millions of active friends, who are rallying ever closer in the serried ranks of a wide democratic, anti-imperialist movement.

Under these new conditions, and especially since the creation of a firm anti-imperialist alliance between the Soviet and Chinese peoples, between the two largest states in the world, the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism has turned into a stupendous force. (*Prolonged applause.*) This camp of peace and freedom is striding forward along a sure road, a road which has stood the test of history. The guarantee of that is the fact that its banner of unity bears the inscription of the great name of Stalin. (*Stormy, prolonged applause.*)

* * *

Opposed to the democratic camp uniting the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies stands the camp of the imperialist powers headed by the ruling circles of the United States of America.

Though the position of imperialism after the Second World War was in many respects undermined, and the fate of the putrid capitalist regime, which is coming to the end of its tether, was definitely decided beforehand, imperialism is not prepared voluntarily to be gathered to its fathers, to retire to the domain of history. On the contrary, it is trying again and again to rear its head, and is taking draconic measures against progressive organizations and against the democratic movement. It is endeavouring to piece together all kinds of blocs composed of its allies among the reactionary governments in other countries, and is busy with the reckless preparation of new and still more criminal acts of aggression, in the hope of realizing its ambition—world domination.

It is our constant task, and an important duty, to watch what is going on in the camp of imperialism.

Marxism teaches that the destinies of peoples are decided first and foremost by the economic development of the states. That is why we must devote special attention to facts relating to the economic situation in the capitalist countries.

Take the facts relating to the United States of America, the principal capitalist power of our day.

The U.S.A. capitalists did not make bad use at all of the Second World War. They inflated their industry to dimensions it had never reached in peacetime and crammed their pockets with money. They took no little advantage, either, of the grave postwar situation of separate countries, especially the economic decline of vanquished Germany, Italy and Japan, in order to market their wares and stuff more gold into their pockets. But before much time had elapsed after the war, the artifi-

cial prosperity bubble blown for American capitalist industry during the war, which brought so much ruin to the peoples of Europe and Asia, began to show signs of bursting.

As is generally known from the data that have been published American industry during the last few years has been working on a lower level than during the war. It is also generally known that by October 1949, when industrial production sank particularly low, the level of American industry had dropped twenty-two per cent in comparison with October 1948. That happened during the very same time that the 1949 level of Soviet industry rose twenty per cent. The American figure, *minus twenty-two per cent*, is evidence of the beginning of an economic crisis in the United States, and at the same time of a crisis which is growing in all capitalist countries. The Soviet figure, *plus twenty per cent*, points to a further mighty upsurge in Soviet industry. (*Applause.*)

And what about the prospects of economic development in the countries of either camp?

Only the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, treading the path of Socialism and relying on the support of the U.S.S.R., can give a clear answer to that question.

Already during the last election campaign, Comrade Stalin determined the basic line of economic development in our country. At that time he fixed the bases of economic planning for three five-year periods or slightly more, laying down as the fundamental task: "to raise our industry to a level, say, three times as high as that of prewar industry."

The first of our postwar five-year plans is now drawing to an end. We can see that our country is successfully fulfilling and more than fulfilling what had been mapped out for those first years.

In the current year we are setting to work on the drawing up of the second postwar five-year plan, which

will start in 1951. As a matter of course both the second and the following postwar five-year plans of ours will also be Stalin five-year plans, and that speaks for itself. (*Applause.*) Everybody knows that the implementation of our economic plans raises the economy of our country higher and higher, and at the same time steadily raises the well-being of the Soviet people to higher levels. We know the road that lies before us well, and are sure that the plan laid down by Comrade Stalin, namely, a threefold rise in the level of Soviet industry in a historically short space of time, will, without fail, be fulfilled. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Quite different is the situation in the lands of the capitalist camp.

It is well known that, thanks to the success of planning in the Soviet Union, the idea of planned economy became popular among all peoples. American statesmen wished to make use of that fact and loudly advertised their so-called "Marshall plan." But what the "Marshall plan" is worth in reality can be seen from the fact that precisely during the years that the "aid to Europe plan" has been in operation the economic crisis started growing in the European countries as well as in the United States of America. Eloquent proof of this is the impressive figure of unemployed and partly employed—those who do not work a full week. This figure has almost reached the forty-five million mark in the capitalist countries. Indeed, the "Marshall plan" has helped the American monopolists to take hold of the reins in many industries and control the finances of European states, but that did not make American industry stable. On the other hand, the flooding of Europe with stale American goods had its effect. National industry in the "Marshallized" countries was clutched in a vice, started to shrink and has been declining, with the result that ever-new armies of unemployed have

been thrown on to the streets and deprived of their crust of bread.

Under such conditions it is understandable that the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies stand for peaceful competition between the socialist and capitalist systems, whereas a spirit of gloomy uncertainty and bellicose adventurism pervades the imperialist camp. Every further year's development under conditions of peace favours the consolidation of the position of countries like the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, which cannot be said of the capitalist countries.

We have no reason to hide the fact that the U.S.S.R. is interested in lasting peace and extensive peaceable collaboration with other countries in order to realize the magnificent prospects of its economic plans. Lasting peace, peace throughout the world, that is the flag under which the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies are marching on. (*Prolonged applause.*)

The ruling circles in the imperialist camp are steering a different course.

To the policy of lasting peace throughout the world the imperialists oppose the policy of preparing a new world war.

It was they, the aggressive states, who in the General Assembly of the United Nations organization rejected the Soviet Government's proposal of a Pact for the Consolidation of Peace. It was they who forced upon Western Germany their Occupation Statute in order to extend as long as possible their military occupation of German territory and deprive Germany of a peace treaty. It is they who do not want to sign a peace treaty with Japan and are unlawfully endeavouring to keep Japanese territory as long as possible under military occupation, blind to the fact that such a course casts discredit on the occupying power. It was the ruling circles of the U.S.A. that spent six billion dollars to fan

the flames of civil war in China. And to this day it is American planes that are still dropping bombs on the civilian population of Shanghai and other Chinese cities, against which they are sent by that henchman of the imperialists, Chiang Kai-shek. It is the aggressive powers that practise a policy of foreign trade discrimination directed against the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, but acting, too, as a brake on the development of international trade as a whole. It is their press that is now continually squealing about the necessity of carrying on the policy of so-called "cold war" against the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, demanding still further increases in military budgets, the building of further new military bases, and the continuation of the policy of constant threats against the peace-loving countries in the democratic camp. All this the capitalists in the countries that form the Anglo-American bloc make use of to secure for themselves further war orders, which mean additional billions in profits.

Yesterday blackmailers of every sort hailing from that camp were seeking to frighten us with the atom bomb. Today they are trying to frighten us with the so-called "hydrogen bomb" which does not even really exist yet. They would do well not to brag so much, and it would do them no harm to put this in their pipe and smoke it: while they were resorting to blackmail, on the assumption that they had a monopoly on the atom bomb, the Soviet people, as is well known, were not wasting their time but discovered the secret of the production of atomic energy and the atomic weapon. (*Prolonged applause.*) Only fools, like a certain minister who since went completely out of his mind, can indulge in the insane hope of scaring the Soviet Union and befuddling their own people by giving publicity to all sorts of aggressive plans. Such people do not understand that, under the present conditions, the imperialists by

refusing peaceable competition and provoking a new war will inevitably call down upon themselves such just and determined popular indignation as will for ever wipe imperialism and aggression from the face of the earth. (*Stormy applause.*)

We stand wholly for the Lenin-Stalin principle of peaceful co-existence of the two systems and for peaceable economic competition between them. But we are fully aware of this truth: that as long as imperialism exists there also exists the danger of new aggression; that as long as there is imperialism with its predacious plans wars are inevitable. That is why the supporters of lasting peace among nations must not be passive or become inane pacifists, fascinated by high-sounding phrases; they must wage daily an obstinate and ever more efficacious struggle for peace, draw the masses of the people into that struggle and not hesitate to take appropriate steps when the imperialists attempt to launch a new aggression.

In the mass movement of the advocates of peace which is now developing in every country we see a powerful bulwark for the preservation of peace throughout the world, for that movement is a faithful expression of the loftiest hopes and aspirations of all peoples. We now have one thing which did not exist before the Second World War. Even prior to that war, the opponents of aggression and supporters of peaceful relations between nations were in the majority among the popular masses, but the partisans of peace were not united then, were not organized in a single mighty camp. Now the situation is different. Now we have a front of peace advocates organized on an international scale, with the participation of the popular masses.

In the same camp as the Soviet Union are such countries as the Chinese People's Republic and the People's Democracies—a total population of eight hundred

million persons, that is to say, more than one-third of the population of the whole globe. In other countries as well, hundreds of millions of people adhere to the cause of lasting peace and oppose imperialist aggression. The Communists in France, Italy, Australia and other countries, like sentries standing at the outposts in defence of the vital interests of the people, have loudly proclaimed that the peoples of these countries will not war against the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, that the peoples of these countries are determined not to be instruments of imperialist aggression. These courageous and vigorous utterances, which are an expression of the tremendously growing consciousness of the popular masses, are fraught with enormous international significance. They mobilize ever new millions for the fight for peace, for the active defence of the interests of all peace-loving peoples, for the fight against the warmongers, against new aggression.

If the partisans of peace in all countries wage an unswerving struggle for lasting peace among nations, expose all instigators of war of whatever variety they may be, keep on swelling their ranks and welding them closer together, the international movement of the partisans of peace will fulfil its historic mission: to prevent the unleashing of new aggression and mobilize against the aggressive forces of imperialism the might of the peoples, sufficient to curb any aggressor. (*Prolonged applause.*)

These are some of the results achieved.

They permit you to draw conclusions as to what our future tasks are.

Comrades!

Everybody understands why also the present elections to the Supreme Soviet are held under the militant banner of the Stalin bloc of the Communists and the non-Party masses.

That bloc unites the workers, peasants and intellectuals, the whole Soviet people, under the leadership of the Communist Party.

That bloc is the foundation of our victories and an earnest of the further successes of the Soviet state. (*Prolonged applause.*)

Long live the victorious bloc of the Communists and the non-Party masses! (*Stormy applause.*)

Long live the mighty Soviet people and its great Bolshevik Party, the party of Lenin and Stalin! (*Thunderous ovation from the entire hall.*)

Long live our great and wise leader, our own dear Comrade Stalin! (*Thunderous, prolonged ovation from every part of the hall. All rise. The hall rings with long-sustained cheers in honour of Comrade Stalin.*)

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